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IDS

Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 05788.0177

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: )  
)  
**Lucia MARAZZI et al.** )  
) Group Art Unit: 2811  
Serial No.: 09/915,401 )  
) Examiner: Not Yet Assigned  
Filed: July 27, 2001 )  
)  
For: **OPTICAL THRESHOLD AND** )  
**COMPARISON DEVICES AND** )  
**METHODS** )

**Assistant Commissioner for Patents**  
**Washington, DC 20231**

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the Examiner's attention the documents listed on attached Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are attached. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the documents listed on attached Form PTO-1449 and indicate that they were considered by making an appropriate notation on this form.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants

**LAW OFFICES**

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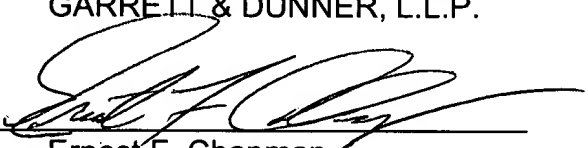
reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents. Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: November 15, 2001

By:   
Ernest F. Chapman  
Reg. No. 25,961

Enclosures  
AJS/FPD/sci